NORTHBORO. MASS. Feb 26

Rev. Amos A. Phelps

Boston

Mass.

Your Prospectus asserts that "its sole object will be to urge upon all classes, the duty of employing their whole moral & political power for the subversion of Slavery" & "will not fail to rebuke those who oppose this Object." &c

But it is published to the world, ~~that~~ under the name of Elliott Cresson, that the Colonies "have banished the Slaves from nearly 200 miles of Coast & rescued hundreds of his hapless victims" — and that the Colonization Soc. have "settled nearly 5000 emigrants, one half of them emancipated for the purpose". How then can the Abolition Society oppose the Colonization? Above all, how can gentlemen, as the Conductors of a Public Journal in Mass. in the 19th Cent. might justly be expected to be, put into the mouth of this same E. Cresson the following disgraceful words:— "Enough. Give him a Commission, authenticated with the proper sign manual of the President — and let it have engraved on it a Bowie knife, a pair of dueling pistols, a keg of Dupont's best, a pack of cards, and a puncheon of Rum"!

I ask you, Brother Phelps, if you approve such things as I now refer you to? Another question, would you be willing to introduce a Paper breathing such a spirit into your Parish, to be circulated among those ~~whose welfare in~~ this life & in the next was dear to you, and to be read & imitated by their children? Perhaps I feel quite strongly enough upon this point — you will excuse my great plainness of speech. As you solicit my active efforts for this Paper, I feel bound in honesty to tell you why I cannot act in favor of it. I am disappointed, for we do need a Paper which shall advocate "the whole of Abolition" and avoid every thing irrelevant, & I did hope you would avoid those rocks upon which the Liberator has ~~gone~~ dashed.

"Think me not your enemy because I tell you the truth," and

Believe me still, your Friend & Brother,

D. H. Emerson.

But such, my dear brother, is not the "Mass. Abolitionist" — I am sorry to say it.

You say in your letter that this Paper is to be "Abolition, the whole of Abolition, & nothing but Abolition!" And your Prospectus declares its grand object to be "The Abolition of Slavery in the U. States!" But in this very first No, you step aside from this grand Object, and give us a dose of matter which is as foreign to the Object, as the heavens are higher than the Earth. For instance, you go entirely off from the Object that lies (or ought to) so near our hearts, viz, "Abolition & the Whole of it", in attacking Colonisation, and I ought to add, that the attack is as gross & vulgar (in my opinion) as it is wholly unnecessary. (I do not suppose you to be the author of the "Dialogue", but I say "you" in a general sense, as the executive of the Paper.) We think here, that the Objects of the Colonisation, the Abolition, and the American Union Societies are distinct Objects — one aims at the elevation of the Colored race — one at Colonising upon the free soil of Africa those sons & daughters of Africa who may wish to return to their Father land — and one at Emancipating those who are held in Slavery. Why then, let me earnestly inquire, why cannot these 3 Associations march on side by side — each helping the other — each laboring to accomplish its own noble ends — each possessed of an enlarged & Catholic spirit? Perhaps you can answer me. I have never yet seen any article worthy of being Considered a grave answer to this question. If no answer can be given, then how unjust, & unchristian, is such an attack as is here made upon one of the religious Charities of the Age!

We blame Garrison for such attacks — why then patronise a New Paper which declares its determination to do likewise? Your Prospectus says "Consequently (!!) it will uncompromisingly oppose the scheme of Colonisation". For what crime, it saith not !!! —

Northborough, February 25, 1839.

Brother Phelps,

Rev. D. H. Emerson.

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I have received from you 2 unacknowledged letters, one of last month, and the other of Feb. 14th.

In regard to the former, I will say, that as it came directed to Mr. Gill Valentine as well as to myself, I could not be supposed to know it to be "Private", as you say it was, and accordingly I handed it to him after perusing it, and it is still in his hands. I will get it however, & burn it, according to your wish. —

In respect to your inquiries concerning our Society meeting, I can barely say that I was Providentially prevented from being present myself. We had been so grievously, and in the opinion of some, so wantonly disappointed in regard to a Lecturer from your City, that few turned out to meeting. In regard to the New Paper, I had openly & warmly expressed myself in favor of one, and had I been present at the meeting, should have advocated the largest possible Patronage to such a Paper.

I have rec'd, as I remarked, your 2d Letter & the accompanying Paper. I have faithfully examined its Prospectus, and the principles which are to guide the Paper. I have read, & reread these principles — and their developement, as far as they are developed, in this Specimen number — and I must say, — I am compelled to say, that I am sadly disappointed.

How much a Paper of the right stamp is needed in Mass. I need not stop to mention to you. And how much I have wanted one of such a stamp, I cannot describe. I hazard nothing in saying that I could have sent you 40 or 50 Subscribers for a genuine, thorough-going, Christian Paper, devoted to the great and solemn subject of Abolition, "& nothing foreign to it."